

**STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BEFORE THE IOWA UTILITIES BOARD**

IN RE: BLACK HILLS/IOWA GAS UTILITY COMPANY, LLC d/b/a BLACK HILLS ENERGY	DOCKET NOS. SPU-2015-0039 TF-2015-0352
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APPLICATION FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

COMES NOW, Black Hills/Iowa Gas Utility Company, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (“BHE”) and for its Application for Confidential Treatment (“Application”) pursuant to Iowa Code § 22.7 and 199 IAC 1.9(6), states as follows:

1. On November 24, 2015, BHE filed with the Iowa Utilities Board (“Board”) a request for approval of a proposed tariff and other relief.
2. On October 18, 2016, the Board issued an Order Providing Notice of Hearing, Establishing Procedural Schedule, and Requiring Additional Information (“Order”).
3. As part of the Order, the Board required BHE to provide responses to certain questions generated by the Board (Attachment A to the Order) and BHE’s customers (Attachment B to the Order).
4. BHE is filing this Application with the Board concurrently with its submission of BHE’s responses to those questions.
5. In its responses to the questions in Attachment A, BHE has provided customer-specific information, including the names and addresses of farm tap customers (“Confidential Information”).

6. The Board has established rules (199 IAC 1.9) governing the examination of public records. BHE requests that the Board withhold the Confidential Information from general public inspection and maintain the confidentiality of the Confidential Information as records not routinely available for public inspection.

7. The Confidential Information should be held confidential by the Board pursuant to Iowa Code § 22.7(6) because they constitute a report to this Board which, if released, would give advantage to competitors and serve no public purpose. The Confidential Information would reveal usage, rate identification and customer service line information which, if released to the general public, would give an unfair advantage to BHE's competitors. Because maintaining the confidentiality of the Confidential Information maximizes BHE's ability to operate safely and at the lowest reasonable cost, substantial public benefits result from confidential treatment and no tangible benefits would result from release.

8. On June 8, 2015, the Board issued an order holding similar customer information confidential pursuant to § 22.7(6) in Docket No. FCU-2014-0016 (C-2014-0145).

9. In support of this Application, BHE will file the affidavit of Tracy L. Peterson, Operating Vice President for BHE.

WHEREFORE, BHE respectfully requests that the Iowa Utilities Board grant this Application and treat the Confidential Information, in its entirety, as confidential records not routinely available for public inspection.

Dated November 1, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

BLACK HILLS/IOWA GAS UTILITY
COMPANY, LLC d/b/a BLACK HILLS ENERGY

By /s/ Haley R. Van Loon

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